

RP

The Jumpstart on an Elite Career

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RP
Religious Program Specialist

Religious Program Specialists (RP) provide support to Navy Chaplains in developing programs to meet the needs of Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard personnel and their families. RPs perform functions that do not require ordination and do not pastoral counseling.

What they do

The duties performed by RPs include:

- Supporting chaplains of all faiths and religious activities of the command
- Maintaining records, ecclesiastical documents and references of various faith groups
- Maintaining liaison with religious and community agencies
- Assisting in preparation of devotional and religious educational materials, and audiovisual displays
- Determining, developing, managing, and maintaining the administrative and logistical support requirements of religious programs aboard ships, shore stations, hospitals, Marine Corps units, and other sea service commands
- Providing physical security for chaplains during field exercises and in combat environments
- Operating and maintaining libraries aboard ships and isolated duty stations
- Performing bookkeeping and accounting functions related to Religious Offerings Fund transactions
- As custodians, rigging and unrigging for religious activities
- Publicizing the command's religious activities
- Training command religious program volunteers on logistics and instruction methods
- Supervising chaplain's office personnel
- Performing administrative, clerical and secretarial duties
- Stocking and maintaining field mount-out boxes

Credit Recommendations

The American Council on Education recommends that semester hour credits be awarded in the vocational certificate or lower-division bachelor's/associate's degree categories.



Qualifications and Interests

People in this rating must be able to type 30 words a minute and understand that their work schedule may require duties to be performed in the evenings and on weekends and holidays. Applicants should have no speech impediments, be able to express ideas clearly in speaking to others, do detailed work and repetitive tasks and keep accurate records. Necessary qualities include an interest in people, writing skills, initiative, resourcefulness and a knowledge of arithmetic. Religious Program Specialists will be supportive of clergy and people of all faiths, set high standards and be of good moral character.

Working Environment

RPs work in a variety of environments wherever chaplains are stationed with Navy and Marine Corps personnel. While most of their work is performed indoors, it may also be performed on the deck of a ship, in the field with Marines, in a combat situation or in a hospital. Navy Chaplains are non-combatants, but RPs are considered combatant and will receive combat training. RPs protect the chaplain and ensure his or her safety, particularly in combat areas.

Opportunities

About 900 men and women work in the RP rating. Qualified and self-motivated people have a good opportunity for entry into this rating.

Related Civilian Jobs-Dept. of Labor Dictionary of Occupational Titles

Administrative Assistant
Administrative Secretary
Church Business Administrator
Religious Facilities Manager

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Career Path After Recruit Training

Enlistees are taught the fundamentals of this rating through on-the-job training or formal Navy schooling. Advanced technical and operational training is required in this rating during later stages of career development.

School	Present Location	Approximate Training Time	Subjects	Training Methods
Class "A" School	Meridian, MS	6 Weeks	Basic skills required in rating	Group paced
Marine Combat Training "C" School	Camp Lejune, NC	5 Weeks	Basic Marine Combat Skills	Group paced

After "A" school, Religious Program Specialists are assigned to serve under Navy Chaplains at Navy and Marine Corps fleet units and shore stations throughout the world. During a 20-year period in the Navy, RPs spend about 50 percent of their time assigned to fleet units and 50 percent to shore stations.

All personnel now receive sea pay at sea (E-1 to E-9).

Since Navy programs and courses are revised at times, the information contained on this rating card is subject to change.

Note: All applicants must read and understand the Religious Program Specialist Volunteer Statement of understanding.



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